

Wombwell Urban District Council.



R E P O R T

—OF—

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

Y E A R ' 1 9 0 2 .



Wombwell :

TAYLOR BROS., GENERAL PRINTERS, STATION ROAD.

WOMBWELL, JAN. 1903.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WOMBWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have again to present you with my Annual Report.

As you are aware, the population at the Census 1901, did not come up to our estimation. This necessarily made a difference in the Birth and Death-rates of the decade, and I have therefore revised the same, and give you the averages in the

Summary of Vital Statistics General.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Area of District | 3851 Acres. |
| Population of whole district at Census | 13,252 |
| Average annual increase of Population during last decade | 231 |
| „ Population per annum for last decade (middle of year) | 12,271 |
| „ Death-rate „ „ „ „ „ | 18·68 |
| „ Birth-rate „ „ „ „ „ | 43·46 |
| „ Infantile Mortality „ „ „ „ „ .. per 1000 births | 174 |

FOR 1902.

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Rainfall | 18·34 |
| Population estimate, middle of year | 13·553 |
| DEATHS (whole district) | Male 126 } Female 110 } - 236 |
| Death-rate „ „ | 17·4 per 1000 |
| Zymotic death-rate | 0·9 „ „ |
| Phthisis „ | 0·6 „ „ |
| Respiratory „ | 5·1 „ „ |
| Infantile Mortality | 170 per 1000 births registered |
| BIRTHS (whole district) registered | Male 323 } Female 287 } - 610 |
| Birth-rate „ „ | 45·0 per 1000 |

WARDS.

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|
| South East, estimated population, 2884. | Births, 143. | Deaths, 49. |
| South West, „ „ 2237. | „ 98. | „ 34. |
| Central „ „ 2465. | „ 111. | „ 41. |
| North „ „ 2727. | „ 124. | „ 55. |
| Hemingfield „ „ 3240. | „ 134. | „ 56. |
| Notifications received from all sources | 78, | |
| „ Rate | 57 per 1000 of population | |
| No. of illegitimate Births | 22. | |

I estimate the Population of the Whole District to be 13,553 at the middle of 1902, and as we had at home and the Kendray Hospital 236 deaths (126 male and 110 female), the death-rate for 1902 was 17·4 per 1000. You will observe this is very much lower than that of 1901, and I would refer you to the figures in the summary where every rate (Consumption excepted, which is about the same,) shows an improvement on the previous year, thus :

| 1901. | 1902. |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Corrected Death Rate 23·24 | 17·3 per 1000. |
| Birth Rate 41·8 | 45·0 „ „ |
| Corrected Zymotic Rate 5·6 | 0·9 „ „ |
| Phthisis 0·5 | 0·6 „ „ |
| Respiratory 5·4 | 5·1 „ „ |
| Infantile 216 | 170 per 1000 births |

The 2 last rates are abnormally heavy yet, and the one affects the other, inasmuch as out of the 69 deaths attributed to Respiratory disease 35 were infants, and this latter number, with 17 prematurely born constitute the greater cause of the Infantile Mortality. No Diarrhœa or other Zymotic disease can this far be blamed. The cause is to be found in the houses and the habits of the people, but not in my opinion in their Sanitary Condition. I cannot say that any one Ward errs more than another. The proportion to the population is about the same.

There has been an increase in the amount of “Tubercular disease of all sorts”. I need not remind you of the committee you appointed to attend the conference of the West Riding Authorities, regarding Phthisis and Sanatoria, and of your hearty concurrence in the plan proposed for the establishment of one of the latter.

The Bacteriological Laboratory at Wakefield has been of use to me in the Diagnosis of doubtful cases of the above disease. I sent 5 specimens of sputum to be analyzed.

Wombwell Urban District.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1902.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE. | CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT. | | | | | | | Total Cases Notified in each Locality. | | | | No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality. | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------------|--|-------------|----------|--------|--|-------------|-------------|----------|--------|-------------|---|
| | At all Ages. | AT AGES—YEARS. | | | | | | South East. | South West. | Central. | North. | Hemingfield. | South East. | South West. | Central. | North. | Hemingfield | |
| | | Under 1. | 1 to 5 | 5 to 15 | 15 to 25 | 25 to 65 | 65 and upwards | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Small-pox | 0 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Membranous Croup | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | 10 | | | 1 | | 5 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 | | | | | |
| Scarlet fever | 50 | 1 | 14 | 30 | 5 | | | 13 | 8 | 18 | 7 | 4 | | 3 | 9 | | 4 | |
| Typhus Fever | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Enteric fever | 15 | | | 6 | 2 | | | | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | | 3 | 1 | | 2 | 6 |
| Puerperal fever... | 2 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Totals | 78 | 1 | 14 | 38 | 11 | 14 | | 15 | 13 | 20 | 11 | 19 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 6 | |

The decrease in the Zymotic Death-rate is very marked. It is attributable to a decrease in all Zymotic diseases, but is more especially due to decreased Mortality in Measles and Diarrhœa. There were but few cases of an Epidemic Sort. I believe the climatic conditions were favourable, there being neither great excess of heat, nor marked absence of rain, but I give much credit to the influence of closed manholes, and the erection of ventilators.

In addition however I have to report much in improvement in the

Scavenging

This is now done systematically, throughout the whole district, by your own staff, which has also been somewhat increased. The Sanitary Inspector reports that during the year 6594 ashpits were emptied, 18,564 loads removed from them.,

Notifications.

The number of Notifications in this year is 78, of which 33 were removed to Hospital; in 1901, the numbers were 181, and 58 respectively.

Measles.

Measles, from which resulted 2 deaths, and Scarlet Fever from which resulted 1 death, were at no time epidemic. Isolation in Hospital was always resorted to where possible.

Enteric Fever.

As late as 3rd, October 1902, I drew your attention to the condition of the Hemingfield part of that Ward, and in a special report, showed you that from May to September cases of Typhoid Fever, from 5 houses, had been notified. Having carefully inspected the places, and inquired into all suspicious causes, I reported to you that in my opinion, the specific germ of Enteric Fever was air-borne from the Sewage Farms (not belonging to us) lying in the valley below Hemingfield. I am still of opinion that, given as favourable circumstances as regards climatic conditions &c., we would probably have a return of the disease in Autumn.

In other Wards we had the following : North 3, S.E. 1, and S.W. 3, in one house. I could trace none to any particular cause, Defects in Drains were promptly remedied.

Sanitary Matters.

On various occasions the Sanitary Committee accompanied me on visits of Inspection, and decided on various improvements. I specially mention some, as being worthy.

1—High St. (Barker's,) where old drains were destroyed, and new erections made.

2—Alma St., Improvements in Drains, Yards and W.C's (still going on).

3—New Wombwell, Alterations in Mr. Alexander's property.

4—Abolition of Cesspool, and construction of Drains at Netherwood Cottage.

5—Wombwell Main, complete destruction of old privy ashpits, and substitution of New Ones according to Byelaws.

6—At Hemingfield, erection of New W.C's and Privies in place of old.

7—At Jump, Reconstruction of drains of 30 houses, and the erection of many conveniences according to Byelaws. Jump still requires much attention in these matters.

Slaughter Houses and Cowsheds

have all been inspected, the Licenses of the former having been renewed.

The number of houses built and occupied during 1902 is 100, whilst there are for this year 74 now in course of erection.

For the convenience of these also, 58 privies, and 40 ashpits, 15 slop-water, and 5 fresh-water closets have been built.

Meteorology.

Rainfall for the year 18·34 inch (much below the average).

Greatest rainfalls, August 2·78 inch and October 2·23 inch.

Least rainfalls, July and September 0·89 inch each.

Rain fell on 118 days.

Greatest quantity in 24 hours } April 1·14 inch.
August 0·67 inch.

Highest Barometer 30 degrees decimal 6 January 31st.

Lowest „ 28 degrees decimal 1 January 25th.

Highest Temperature 80 degrees June 28.

Lowest „ 10 degrees February 11 and 12th.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN N. MILLAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

WOMBWELL URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1902.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages. | | | | | | | South-East. | South-West. | Central. | North. | Hemingfield. | Deaths in Public Institutions. |
|---|---|---------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------|--------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| | All ages. | Under 1 | 1 and under 5. | 5 and under 15. | 15 and under 25 | 25 and under 65 | 65 and upwards | | | | | | |
| Measles ... | 2 | | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Whooping-cough ... | 2 | 2 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Diphtheria & membranous croup . | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Fever, Enteric ... | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 4 |
| Diarrhoea ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Enteritis ... | 4 | 3 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Phthisis ... | 9 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | |
| Other tubercular disease ... | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | | | | 4 | | 2 | 4 | 6 | |
| Cancer, malignant disease ... | 7 | 1 | | | | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | | |
| Bronchitis ... | 21 | 11 | 2 | | | 3 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | |
| Pneumonia .. | 48 | 24 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 16 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 6 | |
| Alcoholism | 2 | | | | | 2 | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Cirrhosis of Liver } ... | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Venereal Diseases | 3 | 2 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Premature birth ... | 17 | 17 | | | | | | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 6 | |
| Diseases & accidents of parturition ... | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | |
| Heart diseases ... | 15 | | | 1 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 2 | |
| Accidents ... | 4 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | |
| In Asylum ... | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| All other causes .. | 75 | 37 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 16 | 19 | |
| All causes ... | 231 | 104 | 33 | 11 | 11 | 46 | 26 | 49 | 34 | 41 | 55 | 52 | 5 |